

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 PRS-01 SS-20 INR-10 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP
APPROVED BY AHROSEN 3/28/74 EXT 22538

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R 282201Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
USSAGE
CINCPAC
COGARD
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 062701

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: MARCH 28 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. IN SENATE SPEECH IN ADVANCE OF RELEASE OF TRANSCRIPT OF SASC HEARINGS ON SECRET US OPERATIONS IN SEA, SENATOR HUGHES SAYS GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS FROM 1970 TO 1972 IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS WERE "CLEAR VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW." HUGHES CITES 32 MISSIONS IN LAOS AND 31 IN CAMBODIA LISTED IN DOD "WHITE PAPER", BELIEVES EVIDENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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NOW AVAILABLE SUGGESTS THAT PRES. "VIOLATED THE LAW BY PERMITTING GROUND TROOPS TO CONTINUE TO ENTER CAMBODIA AND LAOS" AFTER CONGRESS FORBADE SUCH ACTION. ADDS THAT HE IS DISMAYED THAT SECDEF DECIDED NOT TO

DECLASSIFY REMAINING DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO COMMITTEE SINCE THEY CONTAIN NEW AND SIGNIFICANT INFO, "SOME OF WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS EXPLANATIONS AND TESTIMONY." SAYS SECRET CAMBODIAN BOMBING BEGAN ON MARCH 17, 1969 AND CONTINUED UNTIL US FORCES ENTERED CAMBODIA IN 1970. SAYS PENTAGON HAS REFUSED "REPEATEDLY" TO TELL COMMITTEE WHO IN CONGRESS WAS INFORMED "IN ANY WAY" ABOUT THESE OPERATIONS (AP, SUN).

2. RLG TRANSFERS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MIL SECURITY OF VIENTIANE TO JOINT MIL COMMAND SET UP WITH PL IN

ACCORDANCE WITH C-F PROTOCOL. SIMILAR COMMAND SET UP IN LUANG PROBANG (CHITRIB, WP).

3. FANK COMMAND REPORTS REBELS REPULSED IN ATTACK ON REMNANTS OF OUDONG GARRISON HOLDING OUT IN PAGODA COMPOUND HALF-MILE EAST OF TOWN (AP, BALTO N-S 3/27).

4. GKR COMMAND SAYS 259 REBELS, 23 FANK KIA IN DRIVE TO RETAKE OUDONG THAT BEGAN MARCH 18; GKR TROOPS STILL ABOUT TWO MILES FROM TOWN (REUTER PP).

5. HOSPITAL SPOKESMAN SAYS REBELS HURL GRENADE INTO STATE HOSPITAL IN PP, KILL FOUR COOKS (REUTER, NYT).

6. GVN ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF PAYMENT OF ITS 23-PERCENT SHARE OF FIRST ICCS BUDGET, PROJECTED AT 43 MILLION DOLS BUT CUT TO 28 MILLION BECAUSE OF DISPUTES. US HAS PAID 9.1 MILLION. ICCS SOURCES SAY VC AND DRV TOGETHER PAID 3.4 MILLION. NO FURTHER CONTRIBUTION EXPECTED FROM THEM (REUTER SAIGON).

7. AP'S LY PHUC THAI FROM SPRATLYS REPORTS SVN INCREASING MIL STRENGTH LITTLE-BY-LITTLE IN "CONSOLIDATION OF SOVEREIGNTY" OVER ISLANDS, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF DEFENSE AND HOUSING FACILITIES BY UNCLASSIFIED

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ENGINEER TEAMS. GVN NAVAL CRAFT MONTHLY BRINGS "THOUSANDS OF TONS" OF BUILDING MATERIAL, FOOD, WATER AND AMMO TO NEARLY 200 TROOPS OCCUPYING FIVE OF ELEVEN ISLANDS IN GROUP. SVN-HELD ISLANDS ARE INTERSPERSED WITH ONE REPORTEDLY OCCUPIED BY 100 ROC MARINES AND FOUR THAT MIL SOURCES SAY ARE EACH HELD BY 30 GOP TROOPS. GVN KEEPS AT LEAST TWO WARSHIPS IN AREA; SVN FORCES SAY HAVE SPOTTED THREE ROC WARSHIPS AND TWO FILIPINO TRAWLERS (PHINQ).

8. MIL SOURCES SAY VC AMBUSH 66-TRUCK ARVN CONVOY AT "CLASSIC AMBUSH SITE" NEAR AN KHE PASS, WITH HALF OF VEHICLES REPORTED DESTROYED OR IMMOBILIZED;

CONVOY WAS ON WAY FROM QUI NHON TO PLEIKU, HAD MIL ESCORT BUT AIR COVER CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER. ARVN COMMAND SAYS COMMUNISTS STEP-UP DRY-SEASON FIGHTING, COMMITTED 122 C-F VIOLATIONS IN PAST DAY INCLUDING ENTRY INTO 25TH DIV HQ AREA, AT CU CHI 18 MILES FROM SAIGON, BY SAPPERS WHO BLEW UP TWO TANKS CONTAINING 12,500 GALS HELICOPTER FUEL (UPI, NYT).

9. COHEN (WP) IN WASHINGTON REPORTS 18 FORMER POWS MEET TO DISCUSS FATE OF 1200 MIAS, AND ESPECIALLY TWO

THAI POWS THEY REMEMBER AND ONE AMERICAN, EMMET KAY, HELD IN LAOS. THEY WANT TO "TURN PROPAGANDA GUNS" ON VC, NORTH VIETS AND OTHER COMMUNIST FORCES WHO "ARE VIOLATING THE C-F" BY NON-COOPERATION IN TRACING MIAS OR NOT FREEING REMAINING POWS; SAY CONGRESS COULD PASS "ECON LEGISLATION" TO PRESSURE UNCOOPERATIVE GOVTS. AT PRESS CONFERENCE, GROUP SPOKESMAN PRAISES WH AND DOS EFFORTS TO GET ACCOUNTING OF MIAS, SAYS TIME HAS COME FOR "CONGRESSMEN TO SPEAK OUT." AFTER CONFERENCE, EX-POWS GO TO HILL TO SEE VARIOUS CONGRESSMEN.

GENERAL

10. ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL, IN WEDNESDAY ADDRESS TO FAR EAST-AMERICA COUNCIL, SAID PROSPECT OF ARMED VIOLENCE AMONG MAJOR ASIA POWERS -- US, SOVIET, PRC AND JAPAN -- NOW SEEMS MORE REMOTE "THAN AT ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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TIME" IN POST-VN WAR PERIOD, WITH EACH COUNTRY NOW SEEKING STABILITY RATHER THAN CHAOS; SAID MOSCOW AND PEKING REMAIN BASICALLY COMMITTED TO EVOLUTION OF PEACE IN VN, AND CALLED ON HANOI TO SHOW RESTRAINT. REPORTING ON RECENT SIX-WEEK ASIAN TRIP, INGERSOLL FOUND GVN VIGOROUS AND VIABLE AND MAINTAINED US WILL CONTINUE PROVIDING SAIGON NEEDED ECON/MILITARY AID. RE CAMBODIA, SAID WE EXPECT INSURGENTS AT SOME STAGE WILL FIND MILITARY VICTORY IMPOSSIBLE AND WILL NEGOTIATE; MEANWHILE, US WILL CONTINUE PROVIDING GKR ECON/MILITARY ASSISTANCE. FELT LAOS PRESENTS MORE ENCOURAGING PICTURE, AND WITH EXPECTED FORMATION OF COALITION GOVT., BURDEN OF PROOF WILL BE MORE THAN EVER ON HANOI TO CEASE INTERVENTION. FOUND LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN NK-SK TALKS, WITH PYONGYANG STILL GIVEN TO ALARMIST AND PROVOCATIVE PRONOUNCEMENTS AND OCCASIONAL ACTIONS; HOWEVER, INGERSOLL CONCLUDED THAT CONTINUING NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE REPRESENTS HOPE FOR GRADUAL END TO TENSIONS ON PENINSULA (REUTER, 3/27).

11. SENATOR CRANSTON CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF 100,000 OF 159,000 USAF PERSONNEL NOW IN SK, THAILAND, JAPAN

AND PHILIPPINES. TELLS SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TWO-YEAR PULLOUT WOULD SAVE "ROUGHLY ONE BILLION DOLS ANNUALLY" AND RESULT IN INDIRECT SAVINGS OF BILLIONS MORE IN TROOP SUPPORT, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND LOGISTICS (AP, WP).

CHINA

12. NCNA THURSDAY DENOUNCED WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS INTENSIFIED SOVIET-US ACTIVITY IN INDIAN OCEAN, AND ACCUSED MOSCOW OF TRYING TO DISGUISE ITSELF AS DEFENDER OF REGION'S SECURITY. SAID MANY ASIAN COUNTRIES STRONGLY OPPOSE US TURNING DIEGO GARCIA INTO IMPORTANT NAVAL/AIR BASE (REUTER HK).

13. NCNA QUOTES PEOPLE'S DAILY AS SAYING PRC BACKS PYONGYANG'S "JUST PROPOSAL" FOR KOREAN REUNIFICATION AND PEACE AGREEMENT WITH US. PAPER ADDED THERE IS NO REASON FOR US TROOPS TO REMAIN IN SK (REUTER HK).
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14. FRG CONSORTIUM SELLS PRC COLD-STRIP STEEL ROLLING MILL FOR 200 MILLION DOLS -- SAID TO BE BIGGEST SINGLE DEAL EVER MADE BETWEEN THEM. DELIVERY TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 33 MONTHS AS PART OF MAJOR NEW INTEGRATED WORKS AT WUHAN. CONTRACT FOR HOT ROLLING MILL, WITH THREE MILLION TONS CAPACITY, HAS GONE TO JAPAN. WHOLE WORKS SHOULD BE IN OPERATION IN 1977 (JOC; REUTER, NYT).

15. PEGGY PRINTZ, US "SPECIALIST IN ASIAN CULTURE," REPORTS HER VISIT TO KWANG LI COMMUNE, IN FIRST OF TWO ARTICLES. FOUND LASTING CONSEQUENCES OF GPCR THERE "AMID NEW WARNING SIGNALS THAT MORE TURBULENCE MAY BE ON ITS WAY." VILLAGE PEASANTS ELECT REP WHO SITS WITH OFFICIALS AND TEACHERS ON COMMITTEE SETTING SCHOOL POLICY. LIVING AT KWANG LI ARE 350 SENIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM CITIES, TO WORK AND BE "REEDUCATED"; NO ONLY ARE STUDENTS REQUIRED TO LEARN FROM PEASANTS, BUT EVEN TOP-RANKING CP LEADERS ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM AGRICULTURAL DUTIES. SOME SUSPICIOUSLY CAPITALISTIC INCENTIVES AND REWARDS CREPT BACK INTO PICTURE DURING PAST COUPLE YEARS OF IDEOLOGICAL RELAXATION. SOME PEASANTS HAVE BENEFITTED, AND AS NEW PHASE OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION BECOMES MORE CONCRETE, THEY WILL BE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL PERSONALITIES WHO MAY TUMBLE THAN ABOUT EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON THEIR OWN RECENTLY-GAINED ECON ADVANTAGES (CSM).

16. MOSCOW REPORTS DEATHS THERE WEDNESDAY OF TWO OLD MAO RIVALS -- CHEN SHAO-YU AND WANG MING (WP; CHITRIB; NYT).

THAILAND

17. RTG FORNMINISTRY SPOKESMAN DECLARED THURSDAY THAT

ALL FUTURE USAF OPERATIONS FROM THAI BASES MUST FIRST BE APPROVED BY THAI GOVT. REFERRING TO REPORTED RECENT DOD STATEMENT THAT B-52 BOMBERS AT U-TAPAO MIGHT BE NEEDED FOR INDIAN OCEAN SURVEILLANCE, SPOKESMAN SAID RTG'S FIRM ATTITUDE IS THAT USAF UNCLASSIFIED

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IS IN THAILAND TO MAINTAIN SEA SECURITY, PARTICULARLY INDOCHINA, THAT REPORTED DOD STATEMENT WAS ONLY ADVANCE SPECULATION AND THAT NO US-THAI DISCUSSION OR AGREEMENT MADE ON MATTER (REUTER BANGKOK).

JAPAN

18. REPLYING TO QUESTION FROM SOCIALIST LEGISLATOR DURING UPPER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING ON UAW CALL FOR VOLUNTARY GOJ CURB ON CAR EXPORTS TO US, OHIRA AND NAKASONE STATED THAT JAPAN WANTS ORDERLY EXPANSION OF AUTO EXPORTS, BUT HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLAN TO IMPOSE VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS ON SHIPMENTS. OHIRA SAID IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO DISRUPT US MARKET AND THAT PROBLEM HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED INTO US-GOJ ISSUE. NAKASONE ADDED THAT 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN AUTO SHIPMENTS TO US THIS YEAR IS REASONABLE (UPI, JOC).

19. JOC'S LAWRENCE NOTES TIME HAS COME FOR ADMIN. DECISION ON WHETHER TO INCREASE DUTIES ON BALL BEARINGS FROM JAPAN. PRES. KNOWS SENATOR RIBICOFF, WHO HAS BALL BEARINGS CONSTITUENCY, WILL BE WATCHING; AND SO WILL "IMPORTANT TRADE PARTNER," JAPAN. SAYS INSIDERS BET US WILL RAISE DUTIES, EITHER SIMPLY OR THROUGH MORE COMPLICATED TARIFF QUOTA -- BUT "PROBABLY NOT MUCHO."

20. RETURNED FROM MOSCOW, JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADERS UEMURA AND NAGANO SAID WEDNESDAY THAT JAPAN'S PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING SIBERIAN RESOURCES MAY EXTEND TO BUILDING RAILWAYS, ROADS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (UPI, PHINQ).

PHILIPPINES

21. PHILS' CONSUL GENERAL AT NEW ORLEANS SAYS MANILA WILL STOP EXPORTING LOGS AND UNFINISHED WOOD TO US IN 1976, BUT WILL CONTINUE EXPORTING PLYWOOD, VENEER, FURNITURE AND OTHER FINISHED PRODUCTS. EXPLAINS THAT GOP, TRYING TO DEVELOP OWN INDUSTRIES, BELIEVES ITS ECONOMY WILL IMPROVE AND GAIN MORE BY USING LABOR

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THERE AND EXPORTING FINISHED WOOD PRODUCTS (JOC'S LEWIN).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHINA

22. S-N'S BRADSHER IN HK (3/27) REPORTS THAT HK MONITORS OF PROVINCIAL RADIO BROADCASTS HAVE SINCE MARCH 12 PICKED UP RALLIES IN 6 DIFFERENT PARTS OF CHINA IN CAMPAIGN "OBVIOUSLY" ORDERED BY PEKING TO REVIVE MEMORIES OF US AND JAPANESE ATROCITIES. AT SAME TIME, BRADSHER ASSERTS THAT CHOU, "THE MAN WHO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON AND TOKYO", IS "FADING IN PROMINENCE". TO SUPPORT LATTER CONTENTION, BRADSHER NOTES THAT AT LAST MONTH'S STATE VISITS BY KAUNDA AND BOUMEDIENNE, EACH VISITING PRESIDENT TOASTED MAO AND CHOU AT BANQUETS GIVEN BY LATTER. AT SUNDAY'S BANQUET FOR NYERERE, HOWEVER, THE TOAST WAS FOR MAO AND THE CCP, OMITTING CHOU. ACCORDING TO NORMAL PROTOCOL, SAYS BRADSHER, THE TOASTS WOULD BE SUGGESTED TO HIM BY CHINESE OFFICIALS.

23. JOC'S STRAUSS, IN HK, OBSERVES THAT OIL'S POLITICAL IMPORTANCE INSIDE PRC IS LITTLE NOTICED. READING THROUGH CHINESE PRESS, HE IS STRUCK BY NUMBER OF TIMES OIL INDUSTRY IS MENTIONED DIRECTLY OR IN PASSING, AND RARELY ARE THESE ECONOMIC STORIES -- GREATEST MENTION OF OIL INDUSTRY IS IN GENERAL FEATURES OR NEWS ABOUT CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS. BUT NOT ONLY IS PETROLEUM INDUSTRY TAKING LEAD IN POLITICAL SPHERE, "IT IS LITTLE NOTED THAN AN OILMAN (YU CHIU-LI) IS NOW PLAYING A TOP ROLE" IN DIRECTION OF CHINA'S ECONOMY. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHINA HAS BEEN SAYING MUCH ABOUT OIL RECENTLY AND HAS APPLAUDED STATES NATIONALIZING OIL COMPANY PROPERTY. "THIS IS APPARENTLY INTENDED FOR FOREIGN CONSUMPTION." PRC'S POSITION ON ITS OWN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IS TO OBSERVE THEM. CHINESE VIEW OF OIL CRISIS IS THAT US BUSINESS

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PLAYED UP ENERGY CRISIS IN ORDER TO SHIFT EFFECT "ONTO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND SEEK MORE PROFITS FOR THEMSELVES," AS RED FLAG PUT IT. REFERENCES TO US OIL FIRMS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN ON NEW STRIDENT NOTE SINCE ANTI-LIN, ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN,

AND SOME US COMPANIES HAVE EVEN BEEN IDENTIFIED
IN CHINESE PRESS AS CONTROLLED BY CERTAIN FAMILIES --
EXXON BY ROCKEFELLERS, CALTEX BY MORGANS, GULF
BY MELLONS, ETC. WHAT IS ODD ABOUT SITUATION
IS THAT CALTEX AND EXXON HAVE SENT REPS TO CANTON
FAIR AND DAVID ROCKEFELLER HAS BEEN TO CHINA AND

MET CHOU. "COULD THIS ATTACK ON AMERICAN OIL
COMPANIES HAVE BEEN A VEILED SWIPE AT THE PREMIER
BY LEFTIST FORCES?" AT COMING CANTON FAIR, PEKING
WILL PROBABLY TIP ITS HAND AS TO WHETHER THESE
ATTACKS ON WESTERN OIL FIRMS WILL AFFECT CHINA'S
PURCHASES OF OIL TECHNOLOGY. MEANWHILE, WESTERN
OBSERVERS STILL REMAIN IN DARK ABOUT AMOUNT OF
OIL PRC EXTRACTED LAST YEAR. SUGGESTS HER MAIN
DIFFICULTY MAY BE IN TRANSPORTING, NOT EXTRACTING,
OIL.

INDOCHINA

24. TO CHAS. YOST (CSM), "SEEMS AS THOUGH IT
IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE US TO UNBURDEN ITSELF" OF
VN, CITING ADMIN. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL 474 MILLION
DOLS FOR MILITARY AID OVER NEXT 3 MONTHS. MAINTAINS
THAT "ELABORATE CHARADE CONDUCTED AT PARIS" WAS
DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT, NOT PEACE IN VN, BUT
DISENGAGEMENT OF US FORCES AND RETURN OF US POWS;
NEITHER VN PARTY WAS THEN, OR SEEMS NOW, PREPARED
FOR ANY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD NOT LEAD
TO TOTAL ELIMINATION OF THE OTHER FROM THE SOUTH,
SO WAR CONTINUES. NOTES THERE STILL ARE ABOUT
4,000 US CIVILIANS IN MILITARY-RELATED JOBS IN
SUPPORT OF GVN, AND US STILL SUPPLIES LARGE QUANTITIES
OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED MILITARY
AIRCRAFT --WHICH, IF NOT FORMAL VIOLATION OF PARIS
ACCORD, IS CERTAINLY VIOLATION OF ITS SPIRIT.
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CONCEDES NORTH AND ITS ALLIES ARE ALSO VIOLATING
C-F -- BUT THIS IS ARGUMENT USED IN 50S AND EARLY
60S TO JUSTIFY INCREASING US INTERVENTION. ARGUES
THAT FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION REMAINS: WHAT IS US
NATIONAL INTEREST IN VN AND REST OF INDOCHINA;
AND WHAT IS US STILL PREPARED TO EXPEND AND RISK
TO MAINTAIN VN AND CAMBODIA STATUS QUO? NOTES
THAT PRES., IN LAST FOREIGN P

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE062701
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740069-0140
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740382/abbrzcqi.tel
Line Count: 372
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 28 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: SAIGON INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
HONG KONG
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USSAGE
CINCPAC
COGARD
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Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005